

Furbearer Regulations

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Furbearer Regulation Process Overview

- 2 Year Cycle
- Internal Workgroup
- External User Group
- “Running List” of Issues
- For 2022- One User Group Meeting-
September



Selected Issues

- Selected on need, interest, limitations
- Select issues by species
- Bobcat
 - UP trapping season timing, bag limit, season length
 - NLP: cage traps, season length, expansion, consolidation
- Raccoon
 - Expand season length



Raccoon Season

- Recommend expanding both trapping and hunting seasons
 - New seasons would be the same length and same timing
 - More opportunity, may help resolve raccoon issues
 - Low pelt prices likely reduce harvest
 - Objective to maintain or increase harvest
 - Supported by hunting and trapping groups



Bobcats: Cage Traps in LP

- Recommend allowing use of cage traps for bobcats in all LP units
- Allowed in UP
- Clarification of use
- Anticipate low use and no impact on harvest
- Additional tool for specific situations



UP Bobcat Regulations

- No recommended change
- Reviewed moving timing of trapping season
 - Trappers have requested season start Oct 25 (historical start date)
- Considered trapping season length
 - Trappers requested longer season
- Considered bag limit
 - Trappers requested increase in bag limit

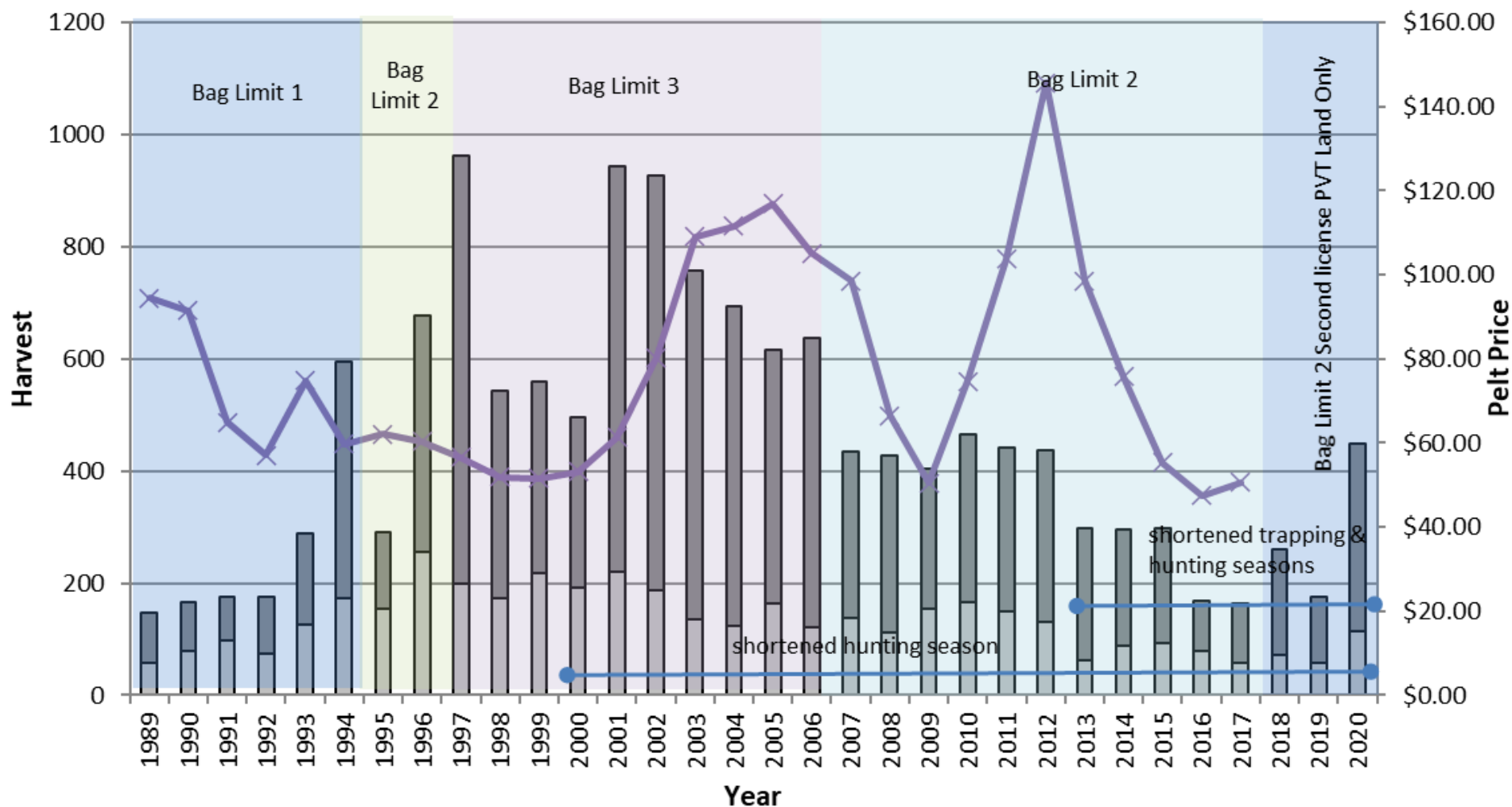
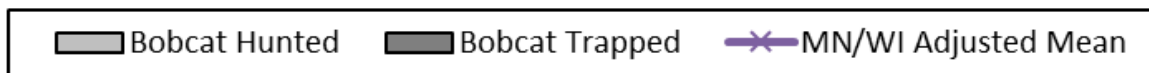


UP Bobcat Evaluation

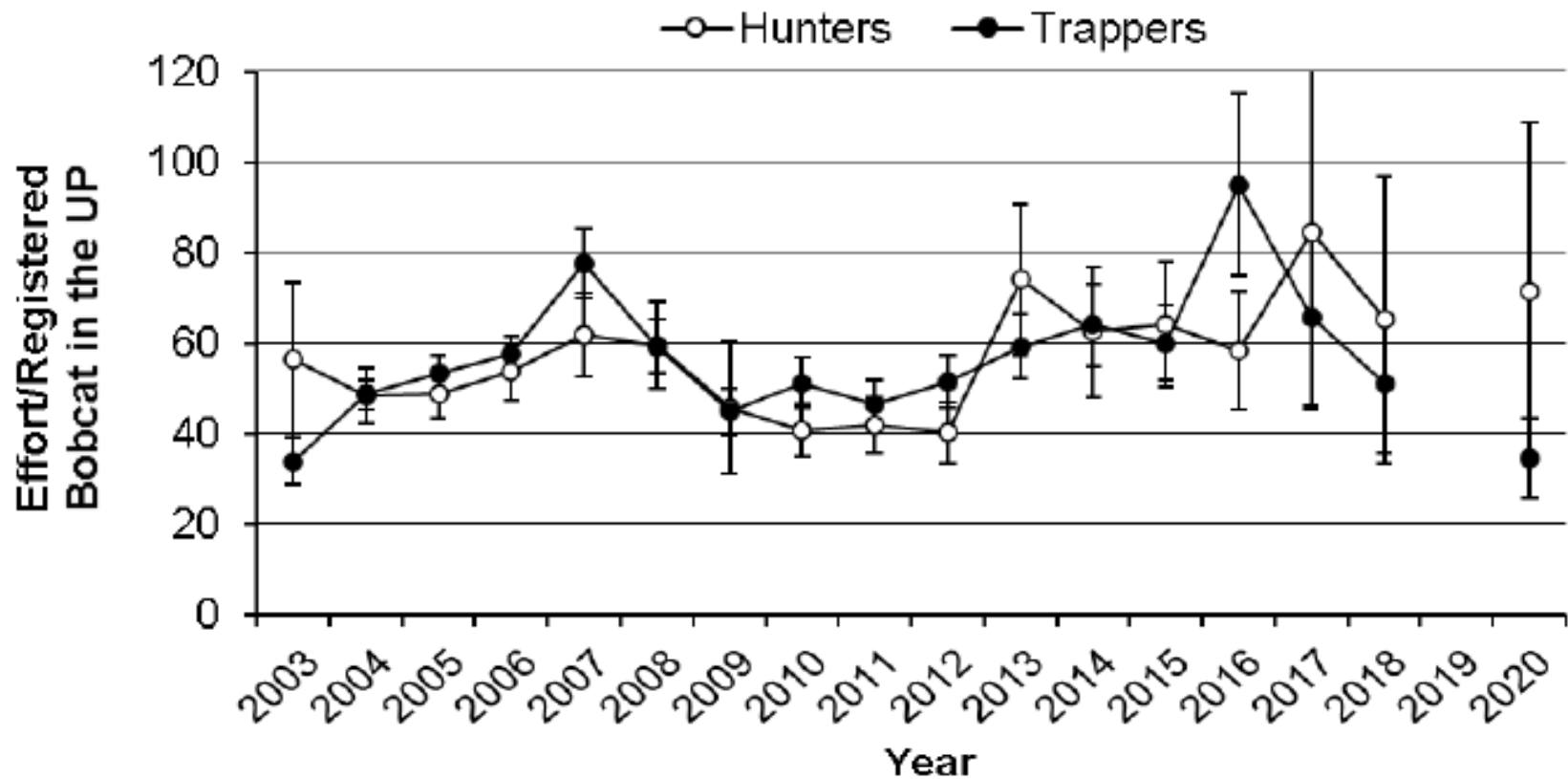
- Population stable – short term
- Lack of support/agreement with hunting groups on population and opportunity
- Season length/bag limit increases not supported internally
- Management objective is stable to increasing populations
- No increase in harvest opportunities best option, altering timing of season ok



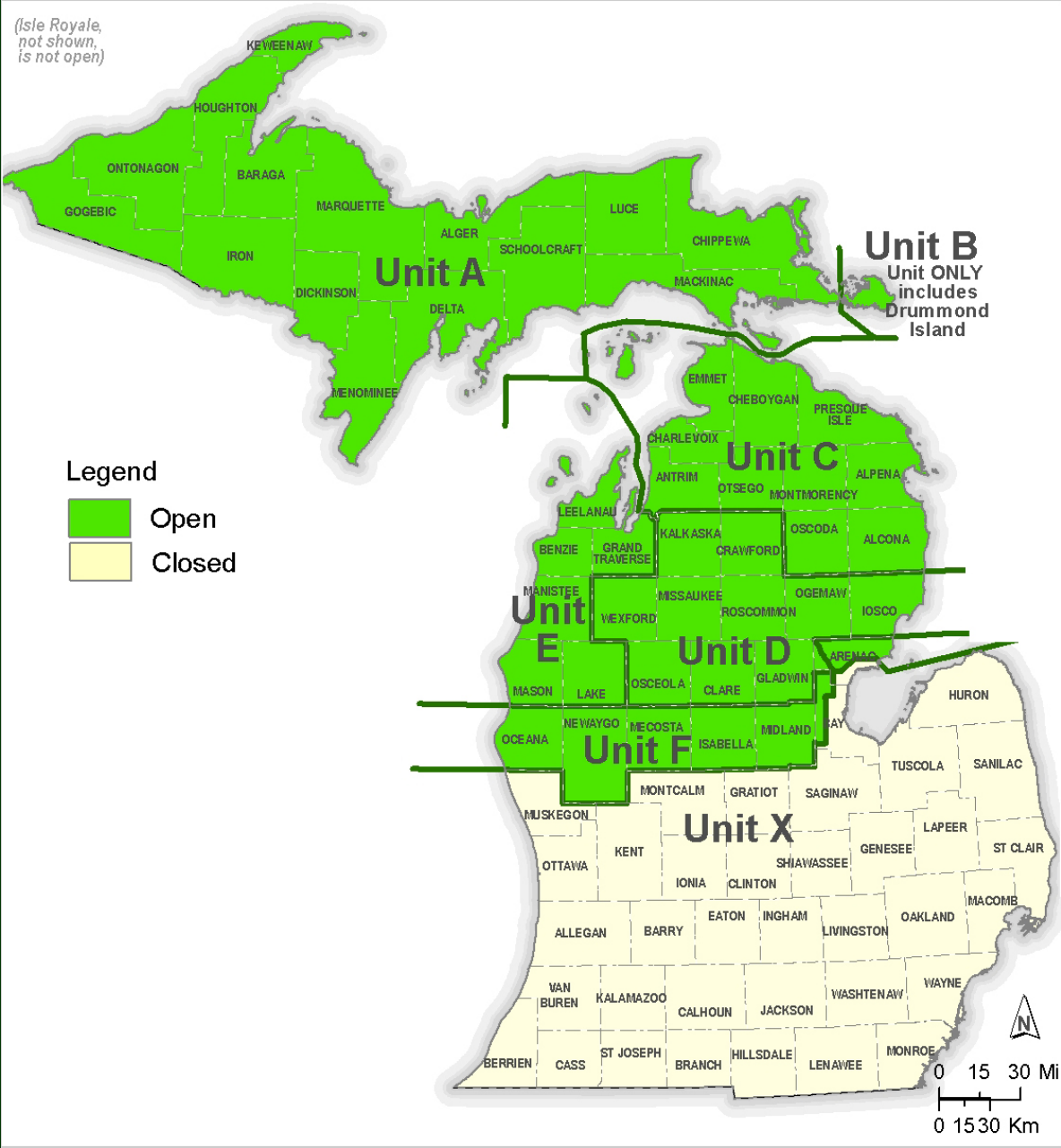
UP Bobcat Harvest



Days of Effort per Bobcat Registered in the UP



LP Bobcat Regulations



Bobcat: NLP Seasons

- Recommend extending bobcat trapping season in all NLP units
 - Current: 11 days (Dec 10-Dec 20)
 - Recommended: 20 days (Dec 10- Dec 29)
- Recommend extending bobcat hunting season in NLP units E and F
 - Current: 11 days (Jan 1-Jan 11)
 - Recommended: 20 days (Jan 1- Jan 20)
 - NO CHANGE to hunting seasons in C&D



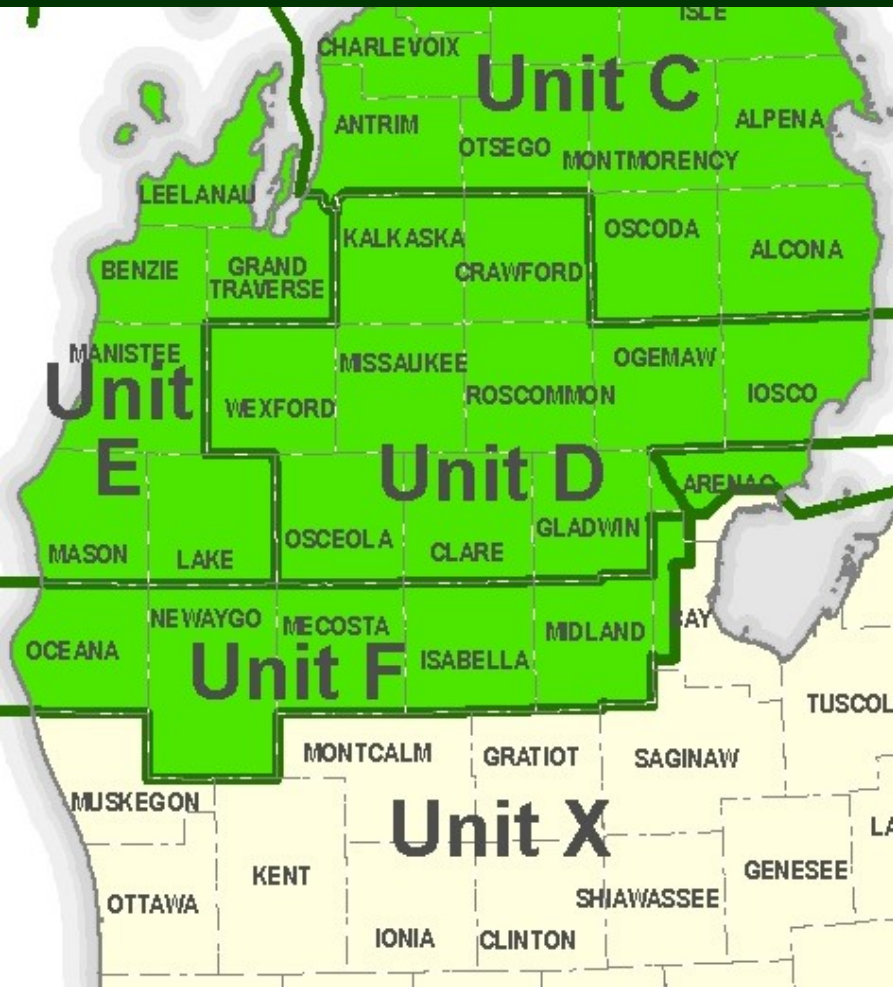
Bobcat: LP Expansion/Unit Consolidation

- Recommend Combining E and F
 - Rename to G
 - Clean up Arenac (Unit D) and Bay (Unit G) counties
- Recommend New Unit H
 - Would include 9 additional counties
 - Seasons
 - Trapping: Dec 10-20 (11 days)
 - Hunting: Jan 1-11 (11 days)



Bobcat Unit Comparison

Current Units



Proposed Units

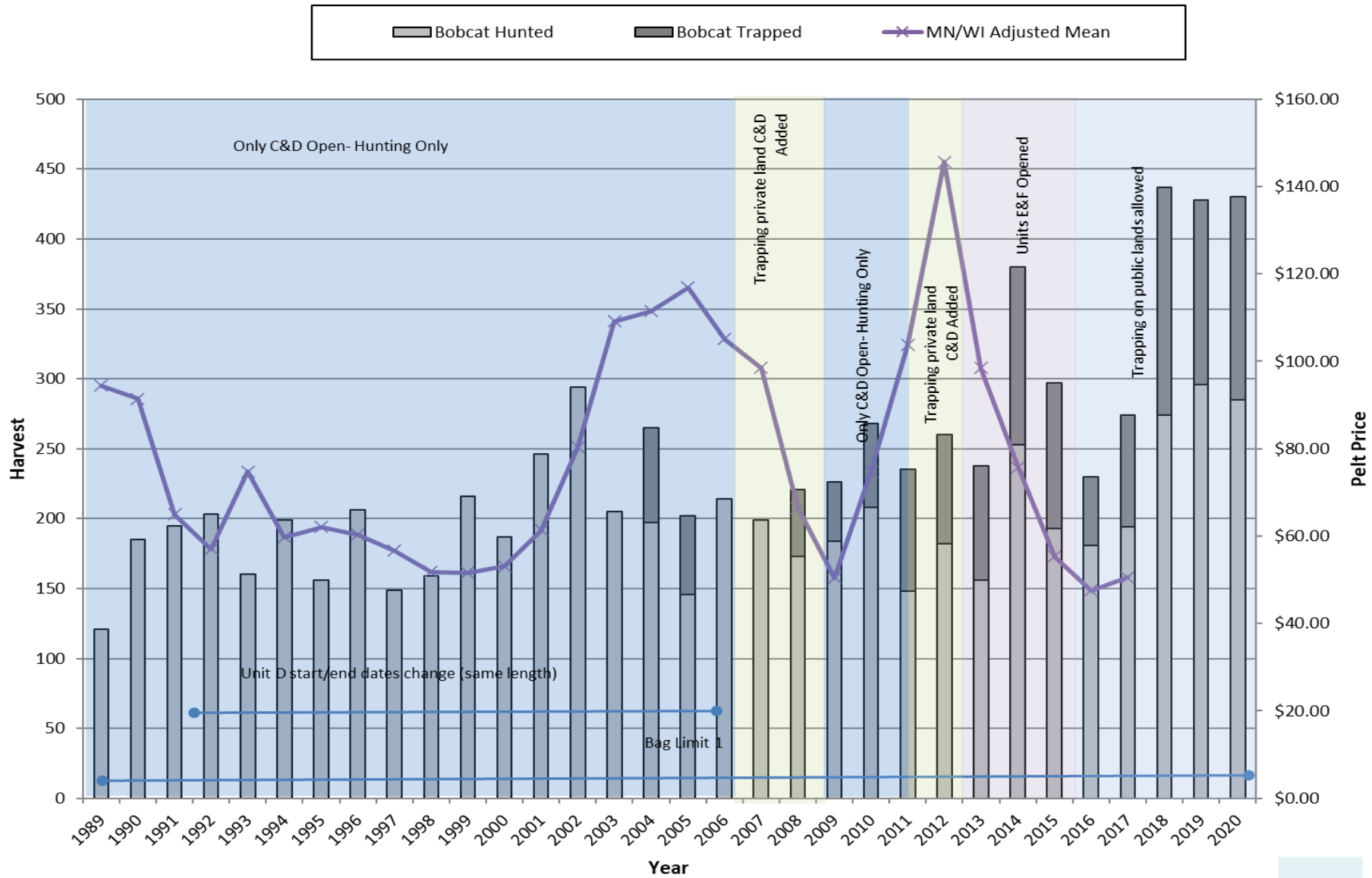


Bobcat: LP Evaluation

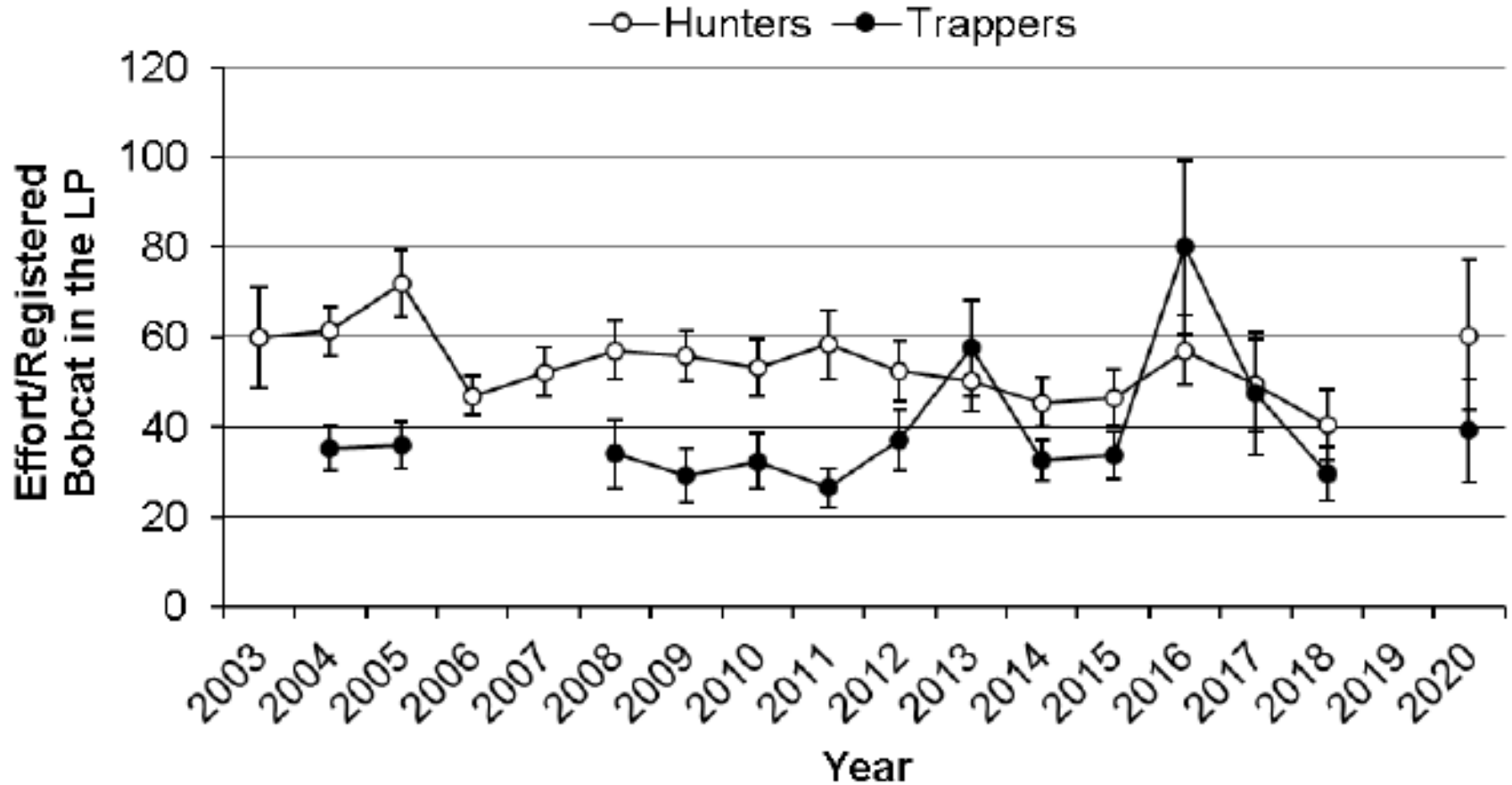
- Trappers requested increase in season length
- Population stable
- Supported by hunting organizations, internally
- Management objective to maintain or increase populations, enhance recreational opportunities
- Slow expansion of opportunities has shown population resiliency, expansion spreads out harvest over larger area, same population



NLP Bobcat Harvest



Days of Effort per Bobcat Registered in the NLP



Thank You

